

Pogled v vzvratno ogledalo akademske kiparke Sonje Tavčar Skaberne priča o obsežnem in likovno prepričljivem opusu. Kiparstvo je oblikovalo in zaznamovalo njeno življenje ter ji omogočilo uresničevati neizživeto. Prisegala je na lastno ikonografijo, figura, najpogosteje kot ženski akt je bila v središču njenegazanimanja. Pomembne in posebne so tudi cvetne kompozicije, uresničene v reliefnih in prostostoječih upodobitvah, v prvinski barvi gline in polikromaciji. Z njimi je presešla klasično tihožitno motiviko. Na začetku samostojne ustvarjalne poti so figure pripovedovale nevsiljivo, skoraj tiho in vendar zgovorno. Dve desetletji je vztrajala v klasični poetiki, ki jo je izoblikovala in osebno poudarila. Po letu 1980 pa je na temeljih preteklega začela novo ustvarjalno obdobje, ki ga je nadgradila z močnim avtorskim karakterjem, z njej lastno identiteto, ekspresijo, z močno poudarjeno psihološko noto, z drznostjo, s stilizacijskimi pristopi in z jasno težnjo po fantazijskem, natančneje nadrealnem.

Ustvarjanje je bilo ciklično; posamezni sklopi so trajali daljše obdobje, prehajali drug v drugega in se v nekaterih značilnostih med seboj prepletali.

Prvi cikel nosi naslov *Ljubezen*. Spiritus movens vsega stvarstva ji je dajal ustvarjalne vzgibe, vendar ji ni prinesel osebne sreče. Sledi mu cikel *Eros in psiha*, začet leta 1983. Predstavlja desetletje iskanj novih in novih ustvarjalnih in izpovednih možnosti, soočanj z dvema obrazoma artefaktov ter premagovanj življenjskih situacij s pomenljivo vertikalno zasnovanimi kompozicijami. V ciklu *Nirvana* je avtorica pod vplivom vzhodne filozofije stanje miru dosegala v krožno zasnovanih formah. V rešitve je vnašala antično simboliko kače. Kljub močni formi je marsikdaj posegla tudi po barvah. Ikonam je posvetila desetletje od leta 1992 do 2002. Zaznamovane so s poudarjenimi očmi, ki zrcalijo dušo. Krožno zasnovane forme pridobivajo obliko jajca, s tem pa novo simbolno konotacijo. Ženska telesa se vse bolj zapirajo sama vase in vodijo v obdobje novih kreativnih uresničevanj. Med letoma 1996 in 2009 namreč nastaja cikel *Čas*. Je povzetek prizadevanj ikonskega obraza in telesa, ki se okrog njega zviija, ga zapira, morda utesnjuje, a obraz še vedno ohranja lepoto in izpovednost ter prevzema izrazito središčno vlogo.

Opredelitev Sonje Tavčar Skaberne za klasično kiparko je nepopolna. Po prvem ustvarjalnem obdobju je namreč postala izrazito posebna in svojska, drzna in nenavadna, vselej pa likovno suverena.

#### Anamarija Stibilj Šajn

A look in the rear-view mirror of the academic sculptress Sonja Tavčar Skaberne testifies to an extensive and visually compelling oeuvre. She was deeply touched by the outside world. Her life has been formed and informed by her sculpture, through which she compensated for shattered illusions and aspirations. The artist is faithful to her own iconography. A female nude, a figure, which is at the core of her attention, constantly persists in her body of works. Importantly, she is impressed by flowers, a subject that also bears her distinctive mark. Floral compositions are portrayed as relief and freestanding works, in the natural colour of clay and sometimes polychromy. In doing so, she managed to reach beyond the original still-life motif.

At the beginning of her artistic career, the voice of her figures was rather shy, hardly audible, and yet intense; Two decades she held onto the poetics she had developed, giving it a very personal touch.

After 1980, a new period has started, based on the grounds of the previous one, however refined by a strong artistic character, her own identity, expression, highly accentuated psychological notes, boldness, stylisation, and a clear tendency for the surreal. She created in series (works composed around the same theme that captured her attention for extended periods), transitioning one to another and exhibiting certain similarities.

Starting in the 1980s, the first series was called *Ljubezen* (Love). Although spiritus movens of all creation inspired her creativity, it did not bring her personal happiness. The *Eros in psiha* (*Eros and Psyche*) series, initiated in 1983 followed. It represents the decade of her search for new creative and artistic possibilities confronted with her two-faced artefacts, and with meaningful vertical compositions reflecting her overcoming life circumstances. Under the influence of Eastern philosophy, in the *Nirvana* series, peace of mind is epitomised in circular forms integrating the ancient symbol of a serpent. Despite potent forms, she occasionally reached for the colours. The *Ikona* (*Icon*) series spans the decade between 1992 and 2002. Its distinctive features are the eyes, an access to her soul. Previously circular, now flattened form takes the shape of an egg, and with it a new symbolic connotation. Female bodies progressively close within, mothering a new creative period. Thus, between 1996 and 2009 the cycle *Čas* (*Time*) is taking over. It summarises the iconic face and body efforts to resist time swirling around, blocking, possibly confining. However, the face remains beautiful and the focal point of the sculpture.

Claiming that Sonja Tavčar Skaberne is a classical sculptress is superficial. After her «first» creative periode she became unconventional and original, bold and peculiar, always artistically sovereign.

Text by Anamarija Stibilj Šajn

Na sprednji strani / front page:

Dovršeno I – detail / Completed I – detail, 1995, pat. žgana glina / pat. terracotta, 24 x 25 x 9 cm

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**SONJA TAVČAR SKABERNE** (1931, Ljubljana) je po končani gimnaziji študirala na Akademiji za likovno umetnost v Ljubljani, smer kiparstvo (profesorji Frančišek Smerdu, Zdenko Kalin, Karel Putrih), kjer je diplomirala leta 1958. Nato se je eno leto izpopolnjevala na likovni akademiji v Düsseldorfu in eno leto (1960) delala v takratni Zahodni Nemčiji kot kiparski restavrador po gradovih. Med leti 1960 in 1983 je bila zaposlena kot likovni pedagog in vseskozi aktivno ustvarjala tudi kot kiparka. Od leta 1983 do upokojitve je imela status svobodne umetnice; članica ZDSLU je od leta 1958. Imela je 21 samostojnih razstav ter sodelovala na številnih skupinskih razstavah. Za svoje delo je prejela več nagrad in priznanj. Sedaj živi v Ljubljani in je najstarejša živeča slovenska kiparka. Umetnično ustvarjanje je razdeljeno na cikluse: *Mala in srednja klasična plastika, Cvetje, Miniature, Reliefi, Ljubezen, Eros in Psiha, Nirvana, Embrio, Ikona in Čas*.

**SONJA TAVČAR SKABERNE** was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1931. After gymnasium she was accepted as an extraordinary talent at Ljubljana Academy of Fine Arts where she studied sculpture under professors Frančišek Smerdu, Zdenko Kalin and Karel Putrih. She graduated in 1958. In 1959 she studied for two semesters at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Düsseldorf (formal West Germany) and extensively worked as a sculptor-restorer in German castles and mansions. End of 1960 she returned to Ljubljana. Between 1960 and 1983 she was employed as an art teacher in several Ljubljana elementary schools but at the same time she was constantly, actively practicing her art. From 1983 when she quitted teaching and until her retirement she was a free-lance artist. She is a member of ZDSLU (Association of Slovene Fine arts Societies) since 1958. She held 21 solo exhibitions and took part in many group exhibitions. She received several art awards and recognitions for her work. Her work is presented in following series: *Small and Medium Sculpture, Flowers, Miniatures, Reliefs, Love, Eros and Psyche, Nirvana, Icon and Time*. She lives in Ljubljana and is currently the oldest living Slovenian sculptress.



Šopek po fantaziji, 1977, unikat, polkirom. in pat. žgana glina, 32 x 22 x 22 cm / Fantasy Bouquet, relief, polichrom. and pat. terracotta



Deklica in Zlatoust, sprednja stran, 1984, unikat, polikorm. in pat. žgana glina, 37 x 42,5 x 15 cm / Girl And the Golden-mouth, front side, polichrom. and pat. terracotta

# SONJA TAVČAR SKABERNE

SKULPTURE 1980 – 2010

Vabljeni na razstavo, ki bo na ogled od srede, 23. decembra 2020,  
v Galeriji DLUL, Breg 22, Ljubljana.

Razstava bo na ogled do 24. januarja 2021. / The exhibition will be on display until 10 January 2021.



# SONJA TAVČAR SKABERNE



Galerija DLUL, Breg 22, Ljubljana